

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

May 2014

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

The *Digest* is arranged within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER.....carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSESHouse & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCYenacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE.....emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT.....legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW.....sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED.....Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is August 1, 2014. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

- C. The Commissioner of Education to provide technical assistance to school administrative units and compile data to monitor the progress in attaining the goals established for gender equity for women in public school administration.
2. It repeals the requirement that the Commissioner of Education maintain a clearinghouse for information on development and deployment of nuclear weapons and industrial nuclear usage in the world.
 3. It repeals the requirement that the Department of Education employ staff and make office space available to support school volunteer programs.
 4. It removes provisions that require the Department of Education and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to establish a school facilities maintenance template and software and to provide technical assistance to school administrative units to implement maintenance and capital improvement programs for school facilities.
 5. It repeals the requirement that the Department of Education report by January 15, 1992 on the status of national efforts to certify teachers of blind and visually impaired students to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.
 6. It repeals the provision that allowed a school administrative unit to reduce the number of days for the maintenance of schools by five days a year for school years 1991-1992 and 1992-1993.
 7. It repeals the provisions that authorized the Department of Education to establish a pilot project for state wards who were in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services in school year 1991-1992.
 8. It repeals the provisions that allowed the cost of removing architectural barriers to be included in the maximum allowable tuition that public or private schools could charge for tuition students. These provisions applied to minor capital projects that received approval by the Department of Education before June 30, 1982.
 9. It repeals the provision that required the Commissioner of Education to reimburse the amount of \$31 to any individual who paid \$55 for a renewal criminal history record check between September 17, 2005 and March 29, 2006.
 10. It repeals the requirement that the Commissioner of Education provide an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters that validates the implementation status of each school administrative unit's comprehensive education plan, as well as reporting high school graduation rates and the numbers of students attending and persisting at the postsecondary education level.
 11. It repeals the requirement that each school administrative unit establish a minimum salary of \$27,000 for certified teachers for the 2006-2007 school year.

Chapter 506 also provides that following the effective date of this law and until the Department of Education files proposed amendments to rules, rules adopted by the department to implement the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4001, subsection 7 and section 15918 are void.

LD 1812

An Act To Reduce the Burden Placed on Students as a Result of Requirements To Take Remedial Courses

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

COTTA

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Under current law, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy are required to report on the number of remedial courses taken by students from each school administrative unit in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics. This bill requires those higher education institutions to report the costs to the students of those remedial courses, by school administrative unit, and requires the Commissioner of Education to reduce state subsidy to the school administrative units and to pay those funds to the higher education institutions. Those higher education institutions are required to use the funds to reduce or eliminate the costs of remedial courses to their students and to report to the Commissioner of Education and the Legislature how those funds were used to achieve the reduction or elimination of costs.

LD 1819 *Resolve, To Create the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine*

**RESOLVE 107
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MACDONALD W	OTP-AM	S-454

This resolve establishes the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-454)

This amendment strikes the preamble and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 107 establishes the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.

Resolve 2013, chapter 107 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 16, 2014.

The law directs the task force to study issues associated with the creation of public-private partnership to provide expertise to school administrative units throughout the State in adopting best practices and maximizing available federal funds for addressing student hunger.

LD 1849 *Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion*

**RESOLVE 109
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP	S-468 MILLETT

This resolve is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Order 2013, S.P. 721. The resolve establishes the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion. The commission is directed to examine and make recommendations on the development of strategies to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education.

The commission is required to submit a report by December 9, 2014 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report submitted by the commission must include findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.